



Committee on Homeland Security

Democrats

**Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking
Member**

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DEMOCRATS INTRODUCE AMENDMENT ON BORDER SECURITY: *"Developing a Comprehensive Strategy for Securing Our Land Borders"*

April 27, 2005, Washington, DC — During the House Committee on Homeland Security open mark-up session today to consider the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for FY 2006, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee introduced an amendment on border security. Congresswoman Jackson-Lee stated, **"This is the Department's challenge on the borders – sorting the good from the bad and making sure that the bad doesn't get into America. There is no room for error. The Department has no choice but to get the solution right. The price of bad choices is the personal and economic security of the American people."**

The border security amendment introduced by committee Democrats requires the Department to provide Congress with a unified comprehensive strategy on securing the nation's borders, to be implemented within a year. The amendment called for hiring the 2000 new border patrol officers that is specified in the 9/11 Act the president signed into law last December. In addition the border security amendment requires the Department to provide an assessment on land border vulnerabilities between the ports of entry to Congress, and to provide a plan that would include using surveillance systems to ensure that every inch of the nation's borders were monitored at all times.

The amendment also provides for the Department to report to Congress outlining its findings on the goals, strengths and weaknesses, and information relating to training and staffing at the border as well as creating border coordinators to evaluate gaps and make recommendations to the Secretary to address those gaps in land border security.

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